

VENTURA COUNTY
Multi-Systemic Intervention Program (\$1,000,000 grant)

This project, which is based on the Wraparound Services Model and incorporates elements of Assertive Community Treatment, will serve an estimated 75 juvenile mentally ill offenders during the grant period. Two-thirds of the participants will be youth with a sustained petition for a sex offense.

A multi-disciplinary team (MDT) comprised of a juvenile court judge, public defender, district attorney, probation officers and mental health professionals determines the eligibility and suitability of offenders for participating in the program. If the team cannot reach a unanimous decision, the judge makes the determination – which is based on the findings of both a mental health screening process and a comprehensive mental health/substance abuse assessment and risk assessment. Following acceptance into the program, each youth and his/her family works with a clinician in developing a strength-based Master Treatment Plan, which is part of the youth's individualized Wraparound case plan. A probation officer and clinician team up to provide intensive case management and community supervision. Participants have “after hours” access to a probation officer and crisis intervention services.

For the juvenile mentally ill sex offenders, a contracted community-based organization is providing specialized treatment services, including sex education, cognitive restructuring, empathy training, anger management, social skills training, and relapse prevention. The MDT's psychologist, psychiatrist, and clinician provide mental health treatment services for the other participants. Additional wraparound services include medical health testing, supported employment, parent support and education services, housing placement, vocational counseling and support, alcohol and drug programs, and educational advocacy and monitoring. As needed, the project also assists participants with basic necessities such as clothing and transportation (e.g., bus tokens).

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